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REX WOODS
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THE MACDONALD LASSIE
BY REX WOODS



Adapting Ourselves to the Future

Many fine things have grown out of World War II. It's unfortunate that it took a war to produce them, and it's even more unfortunate that they're accompanied by some very great ills. But it's a fact that today we have quite a lot of good developments that didn't exist before the war.

Both Canadian manufacturing and Canadian farming reached peaks of production they would never have considered possible within a couple of decades; and new types of equipment and improved processes made it possible to do more and better work with less effort. The important question now is: Will we hold and extend the gains we've made?

Agriculturally, the best single development of the wartime years was probably the annual dominion-provincial conference on agricultural production. It brought together the people responsible for farm policy in all parts of this country; and through the action of this mammoth discussion group even the people back home were enabled to see their problems, not as local or regional troubles, but in the light of their importance nationally.

For the first time agriculture became a national industry, instead of a string of regional industries not recognizing any unity of interest. Without this background it might have been impossible for the Federation of Agriculture to have spoken in such a firm voice; and that would have been unfortunate since, besides its better-known contributions, the C.F.A. has always had a strong influence on the decisions of the conference.

It's a happy sign that, with the dominion government divested of all but the last few shreds of its wartime powers, everyone seems anxious to have these conferences continued. There's a good reason for this desire. The C.F.A. has been able to express its views on farm matters before the representatives of every government in Canada; and departmental officials have taken part in informed discussion which gave them a better basis for policy-making.

From now on, however, the functions of the conference will be different. Since its inception, Canada has had large contracts for the export of farm products, and our problem has been to arrange for the production required to fill these contracts. Now we have reached the point where, due to dollar shortages and trade restrictions, most of our contracts have disappeared, and our problem is to find outlets for food not required in Canada.

This is usually known as our surplus production; but while it may be a surplus for Canada, it certainly isn't one in a hungry world. Our problem is to find some means of getting this food to the people who need it, and at the same time to get something of value to us in exchange for it. Our only alternative to success in this undertaking seems to be to accept a stalemate which might carry us back to conditions like those of the thirties.

Anyone who recalls the great shifts in production that we had to make before we could meet our wartime contracts will see that similar shifts may be necessary before we can find peacetime markets for all the products of our land. But such shifts should not be made impulsively. First, we must survey the world's markets, and find out just what they want and can pay for. Then we should see how much of this we could supply without radically shifting our production. The third step would be to make any shifts necessary to supply these markets with more farm products from Canada and to take any other steps necessary to ensure the continued welfare of our own people.

Such a procedure would be practically unworkable without such a mechanism as the dominion-provincial conference. But with it as a public stage where difference of opinion can be threshed out with the flail of sound information, a great deal might be accomplished. And certainly, with such a set-up behind it, our dominion government should be in a much stronger position in trying to find a solution to the barriers of exchange and other trade restrictions.

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Drugs Aid in Test-Tube Breeding

Modern drugs can be used to produce more calves per year from bulls apparently low in fertility, as well as to lengthen their period of usefulness as high class breeders.

by J. O. Almquist

SOME 125,965 dairy cows were bred artificially in Pennsylvania during 1947, compared to only 1,500 in 1943. One of the most important problems confronting this rapidly expanding means of dairy improvement is the control of bacteria in diluted bull semen.

Semen may serve as a means of spreading certain genital infections, particularly *Brucella abortus*, which are related to fertility problems. Bulls harboring certain types of bacteria in their reproductive tracts are apt to have low breeding efficiencies and be poor risks for use in artificial breeding. It is possible that control of these apparently harmful bacteria with modern drugs may aid fertility and lengthen the useful reproductive lives of some of the valuable dairy sires used in artificial breeding.

Experiments at the Pennsylvania State Experimental Station have shown that either penicillin or streptomycin can be added to diluted bull semen in amounts that will effectively retard the growth of bacteria without exerting an injurious effect on the activity of the spermatozoa. Penicillin improves the fertility of semen from certain relatively infertile bulls so that their duration of useful service in artificial breeding may be extended.

First

Since penicillin is recognized as one of the most effective antibacterial substances it seemed desirable to study its use in bull semen. Laboratory experiments in cooperation with W. T. S. Thorp and C. B. Knodt showed that the addition of 250, 500 and 750 Oxford units of penicillin per milliliter (ml) of diluted semen did not significantly reduce the motility of spermatozoa during a storage period of 20 days. Higher levels of penicillin (1,000 to 2,000 units per ml of diluted semen) brought about a decrease in spermatozoan livability. In routine artificial breeding semen seldom is used for insemination beyond 6 days of age. During a 6-day storage period no decrease in maintenance of spermatozoan motility occurred as the result of addition of 250, 500, 750 or 1,000 units of penicillin per ml of diluted semen, but higher levels of penicillin were harmful.

Penicillin Effective

Bacterial plate counts showed that penicillin retarded bacterial growth at all levels in both freshly diluted semen and diluted semen stored for 8 days. However, considerable bacterial growth was found in the control samples of semen which were not treated with penicillin.

To test the effect of penicillin upon the fertility of



An inseminator prepares for a job.

diluted semen a field trial was conducted on a cooperative basis with the Nepa Artificial Breeding Cooperative, Tunkhannock. Based on 5,212 first and second service cows, penicillin did not significantly affect fertility when added at the rate of 500 and 1,000 units per ml of egg yolk-citrate diluter. It should be pointed out that the semen used in this experiment was obtained from healthy bulls of relatively high fertility. No relatively infertile bull was involved in this study.

Improves Fertility

Since penicillin did not affect the fertility of semen from bulls of relatively high breeding efficiency, studies were undertaken to determine whether it would improve the conception rates of relatively infertile bulls or so-called problem bulls. In cooperation with the Western Pennsylvania Artificial Breeding Cooperative of Clarion, penicillin was added to the semen of four Guernsey bulls and one Holstein bull of relatively low fertility at the rate of 0, 250, 500, 750 and 1,000 units per ml of diluter.

Based on 6-month non-returns to service for 3,576 inseminations, it was found that the 500 and 1,000 unit levels of penicillin brought about highly significant increases in fertility as compared with semen not treated with penicillin. Greatest overall improvement in breeding efficiency was obtained with the 1,000 unit level of penicillin. With this concentration of penicillin the average per cent non-returns 6 months after insemination was

Beasts of Burden Fifty Centuries Ago



● All the fabulous fertility of ancient Egypt's soil, enriched each year with flood-borne silt from the Nile, was not enough to make man's living much better than that of animals. He was a slave, not merely to other men, but more to lack of power and implements to multiply his strength as he tried to till the earth. Egypt had seed and soil for high yield per acre, but the *yield per man* was low.

Today, many old-world peasants and oriental coolies get higher yields, figured by the acre, than those of the American farmer. Yet they are poor, while he prospers. He has freedom to use American farm machines, freedom to enjoy what he earns by his high yield per man.

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63.3 per cent, as compared to 48.0 per cent fertility for the diluted semen containing no penicillin.

Streptomycin also Useful

The studies with penicillin showed that certain bacteria may be present in diluted bull semen which are resistant to penicillin even at levels as high as 2,000 units per ml. Since streptomycin prevents the growth of a number of organisms which are insusceptible or only slightly susceptible to penicillin, a study was made of the effect of streptomycin upon bacteria commonly found in bull semen.

Experiments in cooperation with P. J. Glantz and W. T. S. Thorp showed that the motility of bull spermatozoa during storage for 20 days at 4.5° C was not impaired by levels of streptomycin ranging from 100 to 1,000 micrograms or units per ml of diluted semen. Levels of streptomycin from 1,250 to 2,000 units per ml of diluted semen brought about a significant decrease in the ability of the spermatozoa to remain motile.

Bacterial plate counts showed that streptomycin prevented bacterial growth in diluted semen as compared with semen containing no streptomycin. In general it appeared to be more effective than penicillin for controlling the growth of bacteria in semen and levels above 100 units per ml of diluted semen were especially efficient. After 8 days of storage the average plate count of the diluted semen containing no streptomycin was 82,000 bacteria per ml of diluted semen as compared to an average of only 2,000 bacteria per ml in the diluted semen containing the various amounts of streptomycin.

New Studies in Progress

Studies now being concluded indicate that a combination of penicillin and streptomycin is superior in controlling bacterial growth in diluted bull semen to either drug used alone. Additional fertility studies with problem bulls are in progress using penicillin and streptomycin, alone and in combination, and a report of this work should be available soon. —*Science for the Farmer.*

Feeding Begins Before Birth

Don't wait till a litter is farrowed before you start feeding it, or you'll never regain your losses. Bigger litters of better pigs, made possible by proper feeding of the pregnant sow, will add a lot to your returns from hogs.

by Gordon C. Ashton

A PIG has a very short time to build a bacon carcass. From conception to slaughter the period is only about 314 days; and more than a third of this is in gestation. During these 114 days the young pig is entirely dependent on its mother. So if there is any deficiency in the pregnant sow's ration, the unborn young will soon feel it.

How the sow is fed during pregnancy affects not only the health and vigor of the new-born pigs but also the number of pigs born per litter, and what is more important, the number of pigs weaned per litter and their later progress.

Most of our sows farrow as many pigs as they can raise properly; but it is estimated that 30 to 40 percent die before weaning. This loss cuts deeply into the profits of Canadian swine producers. It can be greatly reduced by feeding the sow well enough to prevent the birth of small, weak, unthrifty pigs with low resistance to digestive disturbances and disease, and with less ability to protect themselves from injury by the careless movements of their mother.

The feed requirements of new life are exacting in any species of animal. In the pig they can be met only through an adequate intake of high quality protein,

essential minerals and vitamins, together with sufficient energy to maintain a thrifty but not too fat pregnant sow.

The protein content of the pregnant sow's feed mixture should be approximately 16 percent. Such a mixture can be made up by adding 15 pounds of a 40 percent protein-mineral supplement to 85 pounds of basal grains. In general they can be allowed 1½ to 2 pounds of meal per day for each 100 pounds live weight.

The Milking Sow

It would seem that a ration that is adequate for reproduction should also be complete for milking and growth. But experiments and farm experience have shown that this is not true, although the only real difference in feeding practice for pregnant and milking sows is that milking sows need more feed.



A Minnesota No. 1 sow with the first litter of this breed born in Canada. These pigs, selected from a line produced by a Tamworth-Landrace cross, are now being tested for suitability in this country.

When the sow has returned to full feed after farrowing she should be allowed feed according to her appetite and milk production. The keen eye of the trained herdsman is the best guide to the proper feed allowance for the milking sow, but in general she may be allowed all she will clean up on three-times-a-day feeding. This will range from 10 to 15, or more pounds of dry meal per day.

Creep Feeding

At three to four weeks of age vigorous nursing pigs will begin to eat from their dam's trough. The use of a tasty feed mixture will markedly increase the growth rate at this early age. It is a good practice to supply a 16 percent protein feed (preferably in pellet form) in a creep, where the piglets can help themselves when so inclined. Fresh water should also be provided in the creep, in a separate container.

This extra feed and water will do much to prevent the setback which is so common in young pigs right after weaning. And since this is the period when pigs make the best use of feed and since the heavier pigs are at weaning the faster they gain from then on, every effort should be made to get all the gain possible before weaning.

Iron For Sucklings

No discussion of nursing-pig nutrition is complete without considering their iron requirements. Iron-supplemented pregnant sow rations assure a store of iron in the bodies of the developing feti. But once the pigs are born they receive little benefit from iron given to the sow. To keep them thriving they should be given a dose of iron on the second or third day after birth, and once a week thereafter for three consecutive weeks.

Direct administration of the iron is the most certain method of making sure every pig gets it. A quantity of ferrous sulfate, equal in amount to two aspirin tablets, may be placed on the end of a wooden splinter and then smeared into the pig's tongue. It is important that ferrous sulfate be used, and not ferric sulfate, which is caustic in nature.

Fresh Water Important

Fresh, clean water is an important part of all pig rations. Milking sows cannot be expected to nurse at their best unless their appetite for water is met. Where water is not available through an automatic device, care should be taken to make sure that the nursing sow and her litter have an adequate supply.

DDT. Raises Guiana Birth Rate

After 20 years without any increase the population of Georgetown, British Guiana, has begun to rise 10 percent a year, with the gain credited to DDT. Formerly, the birth rate was kept low and the death rate high by malaria fever carried by a certain type of mosquito that lived and bred in dirty homes. In July, 1945, a program of spraying the whole town with DDT was launched. As a result, the birth rate has doubled and baby deaths have dropped to one-third of their former level.



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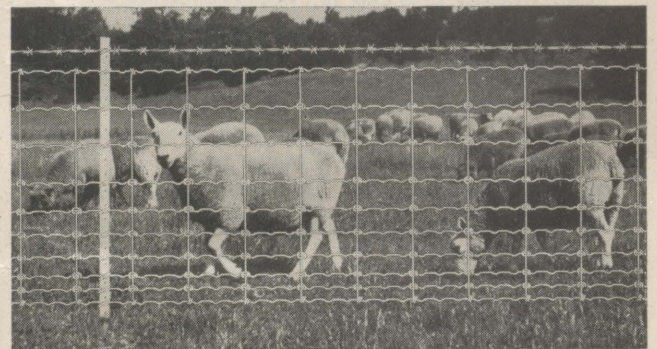


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The Fable of the Unfortunate Farmer

by John Snedden

ONCE there was a farmer who worked hard to make a home for his family. His crops were good, his meadows lush with pasture, and his cows heavy with milk. His wife was happy, and bore him healthy children. As they grew older they fished in the brook above where the cattle watered.

Then times got bad, and the farmer had to clear more land to pay his taxes and buy clothes for his family, and what food he could not raise. He broke up stony land and steep hillsides and sowed more grain. But the crops did not yield well, and in time they got even worse, being more weeds than grain. Big gullies began to devour the hillsides. The pastures grew sparse, and dried up early in the summer. Scrubby brush began to grow all over them.

There was no more fishing in the brook. Each summer it dwindled to a trickle of water, and then just muddy pools. The farmer had to dig a well. His wife got sickly and the children were wan. The farmer felt tired all the time.

The crops and pastures kept on getting worse. The cows had trouble finding enough grass, and they no longer gave much milk. Much of the land would grow nothing but potatoes, which were planted up and down the slopes. There were floods in the spring, and they carried down torrents of soil. Later there was not enough water in the well to give the cows all they needed.

The cattle got thin and the farmer said: "I must have more land, so I can grow more feed." He dug ditches through the swamps so the water would drain out. Then he cut the trees, and turned the cattle into the swamps to pasture. He cleared the stones off the high pasture, and broke it up for grain.

Then, one fall, the brook dried right up, and so did the well. The farmer had to haul water for his cattle. It was a hard job, and it took a lot of time. The farmer cut the trees from the hilltops and sold them to give him money to dig a deeper well.

The children grew up and left the farm, so there were fewer mouths to feed. But the poor crops and the bare pastures made it hard to feed even those. In the spring a flood carried away the barn, and muddy water swirled through the house. The water rushing down the hillsides dug the gullies even deeper. The farmer and his wife took ill, and so did many of their neighbours. They said: "Surely this is the end; our luck must soon change."

That season, again, the crops were poor, and the pastures barer than ever. Even the deep well went dry, and the farmer had to sell most of his cows. When winter came the blizzards, with no trees to stop them, piled snow high around the house. The farmer said to his wife: We can stand no more of this. There are no trees left to



The brook dried up early in the summer, and the pasture turned to weeds and brush.

sell, and we have to eat. We must sell the farm." But they could find no-one to buy it.

Then the farmer talked things over with his neighbours, and they asked for help from Afar. A man from Afar came to talk to them. They told him: "Our land will not grow crops, nor will our pastures give our cows enough to eat. We have floods in the spring and drought all the rest of the year. Why do we have these troubles?"

The man from Afar said: "You have chopped down too many trees—trees that held the snow and loosened the soil with their roots so the moisture could seep into it. You have cut ditches down the hillsides and drained your swamps so the water no longer goes into the soil, but runs right off. You have starved your land of water; and you have failed to give it the things it needs to make good crops of grain and pasture.

They said to him: "Yes, we have done these things. But we were forced to do them; and we did not know of the evils they would bring. How can we now undo the harm?"

"You can put trees back on your rocky hillsides, and on all the land that will grow no other crop. You can fill in the gullies, and plant them and the steep slopes to grass. You can close up the drains that speed the water down to the brook, and make new ditches winding gently around the slope, so the water may seep into the ground. You can lime and manure your land, and add whatever else the soil needs to grow, good crops. And you can work your fields around the hillsides, instead of up and down them.

"But we are poor," they cried in protest. "We cannot do all these things."

"They must be done," said the man from Afar, "or you are doomed to exile from the land. But you cannot

do much if each of you works alone. You must come together to plan the things that are to be done, and work together in doing many of them."

"We know so little of these things," they said. "Can you give us no help?"

"When you find something you cannot do, even by working together, than we from Afar will help. We will send men to guide you, and machines for heavy jobs, and we will help you get lime and the other things your soils need."

"But can you not do it all for us?" they asked.

"The job is too big for those from Afar," he said. "Everyone must go to work on it. We will help in every way we can. But unless you do your best for yourselves, those from Afar can do nothing for you."

Check Over Farm Machinery

Modern farming methods depend on the use of machinery both to save manpower and to speed operations. A machine can do this only if it is in good condition and operated intelligently. Machinery in bad shape and poorly operated can lose time and require more labour than it saves, says W. S. Richardson, Dominion Experimental Station, Lennoxville, Que.

Although machinery can be stored satisfactorily on barn floors and other odd corners of buildings, it is handier and safer to have a separate implement shed some distance from the other buildings. This reduces the fire hazard and machinery is more likely to be put under cover as soon as the job is done.

If machinery is given a little attention during the winter it will be ready to do a better job next season. All metal parts which come in contact with the soil and are polished by this action, require a coating of grease or oil to prevent rust. Old crankcase oil may be used. Anybody who has started to plow in the spring with a rusty mouldboard can appreciate the value of this.

Fertilizer distributors need special care. All fertilizer should be removed, the machine washed and allowed to dry and then all metal parts covered with grease or oil. Owing to the action of the fertilizer in attracting moisture these machines are short-lived under good conditions but one or two years neglect will ruin them.

It is good practice to set up on blocks all machinery equipped with rubber tires, and to see that the tires are all correctly inflated. This will prolong the life of the tires and is becoming more important as so many machines now travel on rubber.

If the tractor is put in storage be sure that the cooling system is completely drained and that a little oil is placed in each cylinder.

Look the machinery over for weak or broken parts and order replacements as soon as possible so that there will be no delay in the spring. Repair parts are still difficult to get and too often machines are tied up at busy season waiting for delivery of these parts.



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*Casida, McShan and Meyer (1944), *J. Animal Sci.*, 3:273.

How to Have Good Pastures

Best returns come from considering forage needs as a whole, and then working out a program that will fit them. Here are some grass-roots tips on how to get more from land under hay and pasture.

by A. A. Hanson

SHORT pasture in the fall is an old story, and together with periods of drought in midsummer it constitutes one of the serious problems confronting the livestock farmer. Any reduction in the period during which dairy cattle can harvest a big part of their wants from pastures, will mean expensive supplementary feeding and increased production costs.

Pasture management cannot be thought of entirely with respect to individual seasons—spring, summer and fall. In its fullest sense pasture management means a well planned program worked out well in advance to ensure, as far as possible an ample supply of good pasture throughout the grazing season. One can go even further, for all phases of fodder production are so closely related that they cannot be separated. Thus hay, grass silage and pasture, must be considered as a flexible unit if we are to handle our meadows and pastures in a way that will bring the most returns.

There is plenty of evidence to show that the total yield of herbage can be increased on many run-down pastures by adding lime, phosphorus and potash. Top-dressing pastures is a sound practice, particularly when this improved pasture is kept well grazed to encourage white clover. Periodic clipping with a mower will also be useful in checking weeds and in keeping unevenly grazed portions from becoming too mature and losing much of its feeding value.

These practices will increase the total yield but they cannot be expected to extend the production of permanent pastures over periods of midsummer drought. Aftermath from hay meadows can help to tide the herd over until late summer rains begin; and where alfalfa can be maintained in pastures or where there is a good supply of red clover or alfalfa aftermath, the problem is greatly simplified. Even under these conditions the area available for summer grazing may still be inadequate. On the other hand, if timothy is the chief contributor to the hay crop and likewise occupies most of the sward in rotational pastures, drought becomes more serious, for timothy makes little growth during dry weather.

To meet the need for maintaining pastures' yield throughout the grazing season, emphasis has been placed on the use of short term pastures. These pastures are established on ploughable crop-land, preferably selected with regard to its moisture, fertility and convenience to the barn,

The principle behind this scheme is to establish pastures composed of high yielding grasses and legumes such as timothy, brome grass, red clover and ladino clover, the actual mixture depending on the location and soil conditions. One field would be sown each year until three or four fields of about the same size are in production. Then the first field that had been broken would be ploughed in midsummer and thoroughly cultivated in preparation for seeding the following spring. Thus each field would be reworked and resown every three to four years.

Short term pastures are likely to prove most useful where legumes such as alfalfa or ladino clover continue to make a sizeable contribution to the herbage throughout the life of the pasture. Maximum yields are necessary to justify the cost of preparation and seed; thus it is essential to maintain fertility by applying lime, fertilizer and manure in adequate amounts. Likewise careful grazing control will also contribute to ensuring the highest possible level of productivity. In the seeding year the nurse crop may be safely grazed when from six to eight inches high, but the amount of grazing should be restricted to permit the young grass and clover seedlings to become firmly established.



Good drainage and Ladino clover have improved Judson Shaw's pastures at Windsor Forks, N.S.

In the spring excess herbage should be harvested as either hay or grass silage, with attention being given to early cutting so that the aftermath will be available for grazing when pasture is in short supply. These pastures are well adapted to rotational grazing, preferably being stocked quite heavily for short periods to ensure uniform removal of the herbage. It is well to bear in mind, however, that alfalfa and ladino will do better if they are not grazed closer than about three inches. This will permit them to recover faster and reduce the amount of injury inflicted by the stock.

With particular reference to fall management, it is

not advisable to graze alfalfa in September when the plants are building up their food reserves in preparation for the winter. Clipping or grazing at this time stimulates further growth at the expense of root reserves, which increases the susceptibility of alfalfa to winter injury. Once cold weather has set in and growth has ceased then the p'lants can be safely grazed or clipped.

In any scheme of pasture management, natural pastures or pastures in the farm rotation can be very useful. This is very true in providing herbage in the very early spring when seeded pasture may be too soft to carry stock; or in September when it is not desirable to graze hay meadows or seeded pastures containing a high percentage of alfalfa.

After pasture management has been placed on a sound basis there may be some years when additional grazing is required in the fall. This will be especially true if very little has been accomplished in the way of pasture improvement. In any event the farm operator has at his disposal in fall rye a soil-improving crop that also produces tasty nutritious herbage.

Rye is a cool weather crop which will continue to grow at relatively low temperatures and remain succulent well into the fall.

Here again the need for additional pasture must be anticipated well in advance, for if fall rye is to do its best the soil must be prepared early. Fall rye may be grown on land previously in sod, but if the sod is broken and rye sown immediately it will fare very badly. The raw sod needs to be given an opportunity to decompose, for otherwise a large proportion of the nitrogen supply is apt to be unavailable.

The best practice is to graze the area in the spring and early summer in order to capitalize on the high production during this period. The field can then be broken about the middle of July after the fertility relationships have been improved either by an application of manure or commercial fertilizer. At this time of the year the supply of manure will probably be very limited, and where no manure is applied an application of about three hundred pounds per acre of a 2-12-6 fertilizer is advisable.

Relatively shallow ploughing is satisfactory, to be followed by disking and rolling so as to stimulate the growth of weeds. During the interval between ploughing and seeding, at least two more diskings will be beneficial, bringing weed seeds to the surface where they can germinate and be destroyed.

Following thorough seedbed preparation, fall rye may be sown at one and one-half bushels per acre in mid August. Provided with fair moisture conditions the field can be grazed by the middle of September when it will furnish from three to four weeks of high grade herbage. Although fall rye can also be grazed in the early spring, there is little demand for supplementary pastures in this portion of the year. Thus the spring growth can be disked or ploughed in preparation for crop production.

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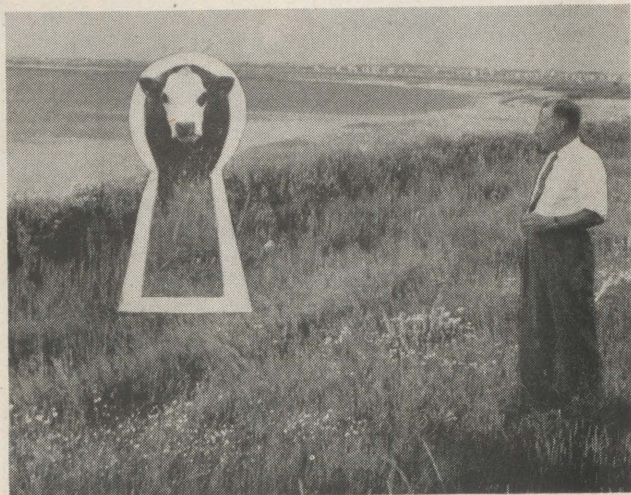
The Rochdale Principles

These principles govern the operation of all genuine Consumer Co-Operatives.

1. Open Membership.
2. One Member, One Vote.
3. Limited Interest on Shares.
4. Refund on Purchases.
5. Cash Business.
6. Political and Religious Neutrality.
7. Constant Education.
8. Continuous Expansion.

These principles apply with equal importance to all genuine Producer Co-Operatives.

Key to the Tantramar Riddle?



In this composite picture R. D. Sutton appears to cast his eyes over the Tantramar dikelands, and see beef cattle fit in. The line of dike holds the tidal waters off the marshlands.

by J. S. Cram

WHAT is it that makes excellent use of cheap roughage, requires little labour and is in heavy demand at good prices? The answer to this riddle should point the way to successful farming in the Tantramar marshes.

And there seems to be an answer—something that fits all the facets of the riddle. That answer is . . . beef cattle.

Let's look over the possibilities. In the first place, the marshes can grow good hay; and work at the Dominion Experimental Station, Nappan, N.S., shows that yields can be tripled by applying needed fertilizers in the right proportions.

These facts have been considered in the Dominion-Provincial agreement for reclaiming the marshlands. Under this scheme the farmers whose land is improved must agree to follow certain lines of soil conservation, such as proper fertilization and good management. This will undoubtedly increase their production of forage; and how could the increase be used more logically than in producing beef?

How about the grain to fatten cattle? Maritime cereal acreages have been going down year by year since the free freight policy on feed grain from the West was instituted. But it has been proven practical to market good beef cattle right off pasture, greatly cutting grain requirements.

Although the Maritimes are justly noted for the good fish dinners they can serve, the reputation of their beef is not so good. Once a year a few dozen top steers are sold at the fat stock show; but little of what hits the butcher shops for the rest of the season would rate as

Beef cattle should be a good means of turning reclaimed dikelands into hard cash. They offer a real opportunity for farmers with little time, labor or money, but who have some initiative.

appetizing meat. This situation has existed so long that, when a butcher manages to pick up a good local steer he still calls it Western beef, because few people would believe it could be good if it weren't Western.

It costs a lot of money to ship a steer from the Alberta foothills to the Maritime centres. If Maritimers were to enter beef-raising seriously they would have this amount to ensure a margin of profit. But they might not even need that margin to compete successfully with cattle from the ranges.

The Maritimes have several things in their favour. In the first place, their marshes can easily be made more productive than the Western ranges, where it may take as much as 50 acres of grass to feed a steer. Then, too, Eastern summers are cooler and winters milder than those in the West, where temperatures may range from 50° to 110° in the shade—with no shade for miles—during the season.

Nor is the East subject to the blinding dust storms and the sweeping blizzards that harass the Western beef raiser. The cattle would not have to wander for miles in search of a pool of brackish water; and they can graze steadily, not spending half their time looking for grass to eat. And as the Maritimer is close to his market, he won't take nearly as great a loss in shrinkage during shipment.

Labour is a big consideration today. But beef cattle require less labour than almost any other farm crop, and offer high returns for that labour. They help to balance its use, too. When crops are being seeded, and when hay and grain are being harvested beef cattle are quietly going about their business, picking up their living off pasture.

Then, too, the Maritimes have the advantage of big markets much closer. First, they have the great beef deficit in the Maritimes themselves; and then the big centres of Quebec and Ontario are several hundred miles closer to them than to the West. And of course, there are always the great metropolises of the Eastern States, which have been beef-hungry for a good many years, and probably will be for many more.

Compared with dairy cattle and hogs, beef cattle have several advantages. They take less labour and less grain; and there is much less chance of over-expansion.

A few farmers in the Maritimes have already made a real success with beef. R. D. Sutton of Port Williams,

N.S., always keeps several dozen. But he doesn't consider his conditions nearly as good for beef as those in the Tantramar marshes. His eyes gleam when he speaks of the large tracts of land there for grazing . . . where it would be possible to run several hundred head.

"The marshes have great possibilities for beef cattle," says Mr. Sutton who, as M.L.A. for Kings County, wouldn't like to be considered a person who makes such statements lightly. And his own background shows that he's likely to know what he's talking about.

All Mr. Sutton's farming is done methodically. He has 70 acres of dikeland pastures, fertilized with 4-12-6 and seeded to grass and clover mixtures. Most of his cattle are sold off pasture, without grain feeding, which greatly reduces his expenses for feed, labour and shelter.

But he does grow grain—a lot of it interplanted with his young orchards. Besides 125 acres of orchard he has 10 acres of peas. The straw from the peavines is ensiled, and he also puts up a lot of grass and clover silage.

Mr. Sutton started in beef breeding with some Short-horns he bought from George Chase; then he supplemented these cattle with Angus and Hereford stock from the West; and this summer he was using an Angus bull on all his cows. He hasn't yet decided what breed or cross will do best under his conditions; but he's certainly trying to find out.

He does know that good cattle of any of these breeds will produce good beef in the Maritimes. And it wouldn't be at all surprising if he finally did decide to go ranching on the Trantramar marshes.

Prefers Small Waterers

"Horse and buggy" types of livestock waterers are costing Iowa farmers more money and work than they realize says Harold Beaty, extension agricultural engineer at Iowa State College. He recommends a shift from large stock tanks to smaller watering units.

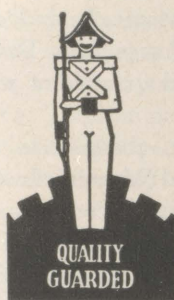
Smaller watering units offer several advantages over larger ones. Large tanks hold more water than need be heated at one time. It is less expensive to heat only the water needed. Also, large tanks require more work to clean. They are bothersome from the standpoint of leg-work and less economical because coal, oil, or other fuels are used.

Smaller electrically heated waterers are safe to put inside of buildings. Inside watering means more convenience for livestock and for the man who works with livestock.

Several companies now manufacture small watering units that can be used to water both hogs and cattle. Therefore, there is no need for separate waterers for different types of stock. This means more saving of labor and electricity, according to Beaty.

The water in the small units stays fresher. Automatic waterers operated from pressure systems insure a constant supply for livestock.

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The Talent Hidden in One Village

Two years ago, following a severe illness, Mrs. Winifred Dewing of Huntingville, Que., took up encouragement of handicrafts. She already had a hobby of writing poetry and songs for her own amusement. But she found that handicrafts did more than fill up spare time enjoyably and satisfy a need for creative work. They also provided a close bond of interest among neighbours.

"It's astonishing how much talent can be hidden in one small village like Huntingville," says Mrs. Dewing. And to prove her point she produced a couple of photos showing some of this work.

Most of the handicraft shown above was done by farmers' wives, retired farmers and Women's Institute members. Many of them, says Mrs. Dewing, are in their middle age or reaching toward the sunset of life. The woodwork is hand done by a retired farmer 77 years old, rugs and quilts by women in their seventies. Mrs. Fred Main, also in her seventies, accounted for a beautiful crocheted table cloth and Mrs. Ayer of Lennoxville, who is about the same age, has turned out an assortment of paintings.

Other items being made by the Huntingville people include shellcraft, leathercraft, etchings, knitting, hand-painted plastic table covers, glassware, aprons, bags for all occasions and many other fine articles.

The handicrafters find their work very interesting,



All of these articles were hand-made by people in and around Huntingville.

says Mrs. Dewing, and on more than one occasion it has helped to keep people going when disaster struck, and to return them to normal, happy lives. It has also been profitable to many of them, and sometimes useful to the community in other ways. As an example, the photo with this article was taken by Norman Bowers, whose proficient photography is just one of his many hobbies.

They're Never Too Young

John comes in for milk and a cookie "after four". His face is streaked with suspicious marks. A new jacket has a gaping tear down the back. "It was those French kids. Gee, they make me sick. Why can't they leave me alone, coming home from school! We licked them this time though!"

Mary says to Susie: "We won't ask Rachel to the party. After all, once you start including THEM, you won't know where to draw the line!"

Children learning the old, old patterns of hate and



Danish folk schools are not co-educational, but some are for men and some for women, John Madsen (left), Unionville, said at a panel discussion on folk schools in Toronto at the time of the annual meeting of the United Co-operatives of Ontario. Manitoba young people contribute \$10 a week toward the cost of operating rural "folk schools", said Vordis Fridfinnsson (centre), Winnipeg, youth director, Manitoba Federation of Agriculture and Co-operation. Ray Hergott (right), of the Ontario Farm Radio Forum staff, thought "folk schools" should be open to urban people as well as rural people.

discrimination. Choosing the things that divide; perhaps never knowing there is anything else.

Adults who work with children, in schools and churches, have a great responsibility in easing the tensions between groups differing in race and religion. These are immediate problems. Sometimes it is easier, in Sunday School, just to stick to the Bible stories away back in the past and let the present take care of itself!

For parents and teachers who do not feel that this attitude has much to recommend it, there is a book they should not miss.

"One God; the Ways We Worship Him", was written by Florence Mary Fitch, a professor of Philosophy and Religious History at Oberlin College. With great dignity and respect, it appeals directly to that sense of justice which is every child's heritage, until the grown-up world robs him of it.

A remarkable series of photographs illustrates the text, showing clearly all phases of ritual connected with each religious belief. Grown-ups, as well as children, can enjoy and think about the beautiful, simple story of Catholic, Jew, and Protestant, who have shaped the moral and religious history of the world.

"One God; the Ways We Worship Him" may be borrowed from the Information Centre, Adult Education Service, Macdonald College, or bought from Ambassador Books Ltd., 12 Richmond St., E., Toronto. (\$2.50).

What Is Needed in A Farm Wife?

Farm people are not worried about the scarcity of country girls for young farmers to marry, according to the Farm Forum who discussed the topic "Boy Meets Girl".

The most important quality for a farm wife to have, is a genuine liking for farm life, the majority of the Forums think. If a woman is interested in farming she'll soon learn all she needs to know to be a farmer's wife. Second in importance is an understanding and knowledge of farm work.

A typical comment was the following from Shinimicas Bridge Forum, Cumberland County, Nova Scotia: "The farm wife should first of all have the right attitude towards farm life and should have a lively interest in and some knowledge of all farm activities."

Eskdale West Forum of Leross, Saskatchewan thinks "the farm wife requires more adaptability than most, in order to cope with the varying conditions and often trying situations she meets with on the farm."

Many Forums mentioned the following personal qualities as desirable for a farm wife to have: A good sense of humour, sociable, congenial, adaptable. She should be a good cook and manager for the home; healthy and strong, and a good worker; resourceful, and able to help on the farm if necessary. If she has good business ability and a knowledge of farm bookkeeping, so much the better.

Of course no Forum mentioned all the above attributes as desirable or necessary, but the sum total adds up to the perfect wife—too perfect, we imagine for anyone to live with!

A few Forums said a farm wife needed no different qualities from any other wife.

What could be done to develop interest and a better understanding of rural problems on the part of city people? This question was discussed with a thought to those farm wives of the future who are now living in the city.

Three suggestions from the Forums stood out:

1. Better publicity for farm life, and more adequate information on it, should be given through films, radio and the press.
2. More frequent contacts between farm and city should be encouraged. This could be done through exchange visits between clubs, school children, etc., by city people spending their holidays in the country and farm people in the city; by city people helping farmers with the harvest; and by tours of city people to the country.
3. Farm homes should be made more attractive and have modern conveniences so they'll compare favourably with city homes.

North-West Dornoch Forum, Grey County, Ontario,

expressed a feeling that is shared by many Forums: "The adverse publicity farmers are given by the press and radio and in cartoons, jokes, etc., which picture him as ignorant and illiterate, should be stopped."

Should farm boys and girls be given training to prepare them for marriage and parenthood?

This question stirred up a very lively discussion and met a strong response in the affirmative.

"Yes", said 66 per cent of the Forums,

"No", said 4 per cent.

Those who said "no" seemed to feel the question was not suitable for Farm Forum, or they thought experience was the best teacher in marriage and parenthood.

The majority of the Forums, however, would agree with Burroughs Falls of Stanstead County, Quebec, which said: "Marriage and parenthood are a life work. We train ourselves to be engineers, doctors, etc. and it is quite as necessary to be a good husband and father as it is to be a good engineer or doctor."

This first Farm Forum discussion of the 1948-49 season drew the largest attendance of any opening meeting in the history of Farm Forum. Over 13,000 people met in 854 groups—an increase of 34 percent over the number of groups that met on the first night in 1947.

Pool Art Show Draws A Crowd

An unusual feature at the 23rd annual meeting of Manitoba Pool Elevators, held in the Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, was an art exhibit, with entries from all over the province of Manitoba. An audience of almost 200 viewed the exhibit, and heard a short address from A. J. Musgrove, Curator of the Winnipeg Art Gallery, and Dr. A. H. S. Gillson, president of the University of Manitoba.

Mr. Musgrove was greatly impressed with the calibre of the work entered, but stressed that there was too much "copy-work." He emphasized if an artist could copy as accurately as these samples showed, that he could do just as fine a job with an original, and that once the artist had attempted an original, he would be unsatisfied with anything else.

The curator commented on several of the paintings which were placed at the front of the room, pointing out some of the shortcomings of the pictures. On the whole he was enthusiastic about the entries, and mentioned that it was a splendid idea that Manitoba Pool Elevators should encourage such cultural pursuits.

In charge of the exhibit was Miss Edith Shields of Manitoba Pool Elevators, who was responsible for the attractive displaying of the entries, which totalled almost 150. The subject matter varied from horses, dogs, down to scenery and ships. The handicraft display, although not quite as large as the Art, showed talent which could be developed.

—Manitoba Co-operator.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec
Department of Agriculture*

New Problems Faced at Ottawa Conference

The Fathers of Confederation were sorely puzzled by what they saw and heard from their painting on the wall. Who were all these people gathered in the room below them, and what were they talking about?

From what these people below said, most of them seemed to be from departments of agriculture. But how could that account for so many? Surely parliament had provided in 1867 for only five such departments—provincial ones for Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the dominion one.

And somehow these departments seemed to have got tangled up in their jurisdiction. Certainly the fathers of Canada had given the provinces the right to supervise agricultural boards and societies; but the Dominion department had all the other powers.

The father of the dominion department of agriculture—Thomas D'Arcy McGee—probably thought of it first. From the outlandish clothes the men below were wearing, probably some time had elapsed, and other parts of Canada had reached provincial status. Presumably they, too, would have departments of agriculture. Yes, there were spokesmen for nine provinces, and one that was treated as a probable tenth. And with the odds turned from four to one to nine to one, they could well have wrested considerably more power from the central government.

But there even McGee was stopped. This Federation of Agriculture, that spoke with an accent broader than any save the dominion—what could it be? Ah, there it was: "The only national group representing Canadian farmers"—that's what the chairman said. Certainly a long time must have elapsed, for farmers to speak so authoritatively to representatives of governments.

McGee was puzzled, too, by the unbelievable agreement among the sections. Almost every statement was accepted as fact; there was no wrangling and little strong difference of opinion. Nor did the farmers find much fault with the government spokesmen. Canada had certainly become a great country. Why, there was talk of 13 million people, with a year's total production worth over 15 billion, and cash income from farm sales well over the two billion mark. Since when were there farm sales with cash income?

But the man says this is 1948, . . . that might explain a lot. And a lot needs to be explained. What's this about the Marshall Plan? And Canadian sales to it of

\$750,000,000 in one year? The world must be a wonderful place now . . . One country paying billions of dollars for goods to give away, and buying a big share of them from Canada.

But there seems to be a catch in it. They won't buy products from outside the United States of America if there's a surplus in that country. That's logical enough . . . But it seems that Canada can't find markets for some of these products because the countries that would like to buy them have no dollars. Canada must have changed from dollars to pounds . . . and if it has perpetrated any such American act it deserves to get into trouble.

Someone is suggesting that Canada start a Marshall plan of its own—buy up surplus products and either give them away or store them until they're needed. But that idea meets opposition from the man with the powerful voice—the one that everybody can hear.

Sometimes they, too, look puzzled when he speaks. It isn't always easy to follow, but it shouldn't be so difficult for them. After all, they haven't been on the wall for the last 81 years.

Just what has happened, anyway? They were talking about a dominion marketing law that would enable co-operatives to operate nationally, in handling farm pro-

The Quebec Delegation



Front row: Mr. Georges Maheux, Director of Information; The Hon. Laurent Barre, Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Ernest Dube, Head of Extension.
Back row: Mr. Pierre Labrecque, Livestock Commissioner; Mr. Henri Dubord, Director of Marketing Service.

ducts. But he's talking about the provinces making use of their own marketing acts, and says the dominion government has given them all the legislation they need—that it's up to them to use it. Surely they're talking about two different things, and someone will straighten it all out. But no . . . this is the end of the meeting. This modern world is certainly hard to understand.

Mr. McGee knew that most of the men had come to the Dominion-Provincial Conference realizing that great problems lay ahead. On the first day they were warned that some of these problems were even worse than they thought. It looked as if the cost of a war—a war that had brought Canada a level of prosperity never before equalled—would still have to be paid. The country was threatened with the loss of markets for its surpluses—surpluses in wheat, bacon and eggs. Apparently markets for other things such as apples and potatoes had been greatly reduced, and there was little hope of recovering them soon.

It was evident that Canada had faced declining markets for some things ever since the end of the war. But the effects of these declines had been lessened because farmers could simply shift from a crop in surplus to another that was still in demand. Now the group could see no more shifts to solve the country's problems without bringing further complications; and it looked as if a lot of people were going to be hurt.

Better merchandising was suggested; and the idea got considerable support. But it was pointed out that with the best merchandising in the world, the people of Canada—even 13 million of them—couldn't begin to eat all their surplus products. It looked as if they would have to cut their production still further, or find new markets.

The seriousness of the problem was shown by a suggestion that it might be necessary for Canada to shift from bacon type hogs to heavy hogs, to find a market in the United States. There was considerable argument on whether such a shift would be necessary to make sales in the United States. Some people believed that the people south of the border were developing quite a taste for Canadian bacon. This was opposed by the argument that the Chicago market demanded heavy hogs, and that if Canadians wanted to sell there they would have to supply heavy hogs, and ship them down to Chicago for slaughter; and this would, of course, result in the collapse of Canada's packing industry.

The stalemate was broken when a representative of the United States said that demand in his country was really shifting toward pork from bacon hogs; and as evidence he cited some efforts to produce hogs of that type in the U.S.

The representative of the farmers thought it should be possible for the Canadian Meat Board to ship pork to the United States whenever it had an opportunity, thus equalizing the price to farmers for hogs sold on all

markets, and at the same time distributing these sales so they wouldn't glut any single U.S. market and bring a demand to have our hogs excluded.

Apparently there were many other problems in livestock. Crushing mills in Canada were unable to produce any more linseed oil meal because they couldn't dispose of their linseed oil—all their storage tanks were filled with it, and the world offered no market. With stocks of oil cake meal low, and no more being crushed, feeders were faced with a serious shortage of one of their best protein feeds.

It was suggested that Canada buy up the accumulated oil and keep it in reserve until it was needed, or else give it away, either to help brighten up our landscape with freshly painted buildings or to help out other countries. But this suggestion met with no encouragement from the man with the big voice; and it appeared as though Canada's livestock industry might be drowned in linseed oil.

There was serious discussion over poultry, too. It was feared that with narrowing markets a lot of vets who had started poultry plants might take a very hard blow. They had no other lines to cushion the impact, as could be done on mixed farms; and as they were just getting established, a sharp fall in prices might drive them out of business and cost them their total investments.

With dairy cattle, the big problem was the swing away from cheese, which was Canada's only dairy export of major importance before the war, to products with less assured markets. It was feared that since a big proportion of the concentrated milk products was going to relief organizations of a very temporary nature, the dairy industry might suddenly find itself with no export outlet. Some reorganization of the dairy industry was suggested, to check the steady decline in the production of cheese. A possible method was to develop more combined plants that could handle all the milk in their districts and turn it into any of several products, according to the demand and the price for each.

When the export contracts were announced they showed that the next year Britain would take 160 million pounds of bacon, or 87 percent of 1948 exports to that country. In eggs she would take the equivalent of 1,533,000 cases of shell eggs, or 65 percent of our 1948 shipments. The new cheese contract was for 50,000,000 pounds, the same as last year; but in 1948 Canada actually shipped only about 32,000,000 pounds, because of lack of supplies.

The prices for bacon and cheese in 1949 were to be the same as for the previous year, but the egg price was to be slightly lower, as no fresh shell eggs would be shipped.

Summing it all up, McGee came to this conclusion—that Canada would either have to find new markets for some of its bacon and eggs, or else farmers would have

to reduce their production. And he was a man who believed in broader horizons—else why should he ever have supported this idea of confederation?

He felt more cheerful when he heard someone mention international trade agreements. If national co-operation was a good thing, international accord was even better, he thought. So he was again rather distressed when some of the company gathered below expressed little faith in the possibilities.

He was concerned, too, about the talk of youth leaving the farm. He heard numerous suggestions for encouraging them to remain there: Better returns to farmers so they could pay their sons well enough to keep them; more willingness on the part of farmers to let their sons take some of the responsibility for farm operations; more attractive and convenient homes to keep the girls there, so the boys wouldn't be so likely to stray. All of these, he thought, were good ideas in any age.

But he wished that the talk about seeking new markets had been more positive. It was difficult to understand how this country had grown to its present stature if its people had always relied on someone else to solve their problems for them—something like the Marshall Plan. It was all very well, he thought, to grasp such opportunities, as long as you considered what might happen as a result of relying entirely on them. But had anyone the right to rail against these opportunities when they backfired?

Certainly, if Canada had played such a big part in this war he had heard mentioned several times, it should be able to rise to an occasion like this, and draw up some plan for positive action that would see it over the hump.

When the last talk had been given and the meeting was adjourned, McGee sighed. Perhaps it was just as well that he was only a figure in a painting. But he would like to get in there and see if he couldn't start some action.



(left to right) Mr. A. M. Shaw, Director of Marketing Service, Dom. Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa; The Right Hon. James G. Gardiner, Dom. Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa; Dr. G. S. H. Barton, Deputy Minister, Dom. Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

MARKET COMMENTS

Beef cattle prices have regained what was lost in November. Comparison of present prices with those of the previous year record a tremendous rise. In the canner and cutter class the price in early December was almost double that recorded in the previous year.

The bacon agreement for 1949 is for a reduced quantity—160 as contrasted with 195 million pounds at the same price as that of the past year.

The floor price on potatoes has been set at \$1.15 per hundred-weight. No recommendations were made at the recent Dominion Provincial Conference regarding acreage to be planted the coming season.

The United States reports a decline of 11 per cent in wholesale prices since January 1948. In Canada wholesale prices on a 1926 base were 146.9 in January and 158.2 in September. During this period farm products rose from 140.8 in January to 143.4 in September. Field crops declined from 126.7 to 116.5, while animal products rose from 164.4 to 188.4.

This movement of prices in opposite directions during this period has brought prices more closely in line with one another in the two countries. Some of the reasons for this have been previously discussed in this column.

FEED

Both food and fuel are in greater supply than in any previous post-war year. This is partly the result of a mild winter.

Trend of Prices

	Dec. 1947	Nov. 1948	Dec. 1948
LIVESTOCK:	\$	\$	\$
Steers, good, per cwt.....	14.28	22.00	23.00
Cows, good, per cwt.....	10.28	16.45	16.90
Cows, common, per cwt. ...	7.85	11.65	12.60
Canners and cutters, per cwt.	5.93	10.35	11.05
Veal, good and choice, per cwt.	16.15	27.10	28.60
Veal, common, per cwt. ...	12.88	21.80	25.05
Lambs, good, per cwt.....	15.50	23.30	24.00
Lambs, common, per cwt.....	9.98	16.40	24.00
Bacon hogs, B1 dressed, per cwt.	22.60	30.85	31.00
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:			
Butter, per lb.	0.66	0.69	0.69
Cheese, per lb.	0.26	0.33	0.33
Eggs, grade A large, per dozen	0.45		0.52
Chickens, live, 5 lbs. plus, per lb.	0.27½		0.39
Chickens, dressed, milk-fed A, per lb.	0.38		0.47
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:			
Apples, Quebec McIntosh, per box	3.00	3.00	3.00
B.C. McIntosh, extra fancy, per box	3.75		4.00
Potatoes, Quebec No. 1, per 75 lb. bag	2.00-2.10	1.10-1.15	1.10-1.15
FEED:			
Bran, per ton.....	47.75-46.25	55.00-55.75	56.00-57.00
Barley Meal, per ton	65.50-66.80	62.00-64.50	60.25-62.00
Oat Chop, per ton....	63.25-67.50	63.20-66.00	61.50-67.00
Oil Meal, per ton	83.00	70.00	

The Provincial Veterinary College

There are only two veterinary Colleges in Canada. One is at Guelph, Ontario, affiliated with the University of Toronto. The other is at St. Hyacinthe, in the Province of Quebec; a new school, organized within the short space of four months, and affiliated with the University of Montreal.

This is not, of course, the first French veterinary college that we have ever had, but it is the first one that has been underwritten by the Provincial Government. The first French veterinary college was established in Montreal in 1886, by Dr. V. T. Daubigny, and offered a three-year course. The school was first situated on Pine Avenue, then moved to buildings furnished by the University of Montreal on St. Denis and Craig Streets, and finally took over a former dental school at the corner of Demontigny and St. Hubert Streets.

Problems began to arise in 1922, and by 1928, due to the increased use of automobiles which reduced drastically the number of horses available in the city, but more particularly the depression which was just beginning, things were at a point where drastic action had to be taken if this veterinary instruction were to be kept up in Quebec. At the suggestion of the Provincial Government, the Trappist Fathers at Oka, who were already operating an agricultural school, agreed to undertake to provide for the veterinary college as well. New buildings were put up, which included a hospital, laboratories and classrooms within the next few years, and the veterinary college continued in operation at Oka until last year. General instruction was given by the regular Oka staff and by a staff of full and part time instructors for the purely professional courses. This situation, with the college so closely connected with the agricultural college, proved ideal, and for twenty years the two courses continued side by side. Over 175 veterinarians graduated from Oka. Some of them, who

had come from abroad to study, went back home after graduating, where they have given good accounts of themselves. Ninety-five percent of all the graduates were successful in writing Civil Service examinations.

In the spring of 1947, the Oka authorities decided that they could no longer carry on with the veterinary college, as the space it took up was needed for other purposes, and announced that the college would not re-open for the following year. It was suggested that the Provincial Government should take it over.

This the government decided to do, and on October 28, 1947, a temporary unit was opened to students in buildings formerly occupied by the Navy at St. Hyacinthe. During the summer, barracks had been converted as best as could be into classrooms and laboratories, and into offices and quarters for the staff; equipment was bought and installed and, although there is still a world of things to be done, the college opened on time with a total registration of 115 students, of whom 15 are in the graduating class.

The course lasts five years; one year of pre-veterinary studies, and four years of specialized work. And the importance of this college to Canadian farmers will be seen when it is pointed out that there are about 1,200 practising veterinarians in Canada today—about half the number needed. Right now there are 120 vacancies in the Federal Civil Service, and it is not known how many districts are without the services of a private practitioner. With the increased intensification of farming, new feeding practices and other factors bringing more and more problems of livestock protection into being, the need for a large body of well trained veterinarians is becoming more and more acute. This need the Provincial Veterinary School will do its part to meet.

Quebec Cheesemakers at Belleville

For the second consecutive year, George Harbour, cheesemaker for the Theberge & Pouliot Syndicate at Armagh in Bellechasse County won the J. D. Leclerc trophy offered by the Quebec Department of Agriculture, for the best exhibit of September cheese. His exhibit scored 97.2%.

The Co-operative Federee cup, offered for the best October cheese, was won by Romeo Brousseau of Ste. Germaine in Dorchester County, who had a 97% score.

Six Quebec cheesemakers represented their province at Belleville this year, competing with the best cheesemakers in the country. This cheese exhibition has been held regularly for the past 21 years, under the auspices of the Ontario Cheese Manufacturers' Association.



Freshman at the Veterinary College during initiation week.

Lachute Plowing Match

In spite of the shortage of labor on farms and the unfavorable condition of the soil for match plowing this fall, due to prolonged dry weather, plowing matches in this province proved quite popular. A good example of this statement is the match of the Argenteuil Plowmen's Association which was held this year on the farm of Mr. George Gordon near Lachute. Mr. Gordon served the contestants in the match a substantial lunch. The fields in which the contests were held were in good condition for a match, the ground being level and the sod uniform with only short grass. The soil was fairly dry, however, and it was not easy to do a first class job of plowing.

The largest class was the men's class for horse-drawn, plain plows with 11 contestants. While the men's tractor plow class had only four contestants their plowing attracted much favorable attention. In fact the outstanding feature of this match was the uniformly high quality of the plowing. Perhaps a somewhat unusual result of the competition is the fact that the prize for the best ridge in the match went to D. Leishman, winner in the men's tractor class. It is no longer true that horse plowmen do better work than is possible with tractor plows. A photograph of Mr. Leishman's ridge and finish is shown herewith.

A novel feature of the match was a horse pulling contest which proved intensely interesting to the spectators. A stone boat heavily loaded provided the necessary resistance to the efforts of the teams, the load being increased after each round of pulls until all comers but the winners were eliminated. While this method of providing a load for the teams does not make it possible to measure the actual pull developed by the teams, the contests showed that the Lachute district has no shortage of good horse flesh and there was exhibited also some first class horsemanship. Winners in this contest were, 1st. Roger Lalonde; 2nd. Basil Clarke; 3rd. R. Thomas.

Winners in the plowing contests were: Class 1, Boys under 16, plain plows, horse-drawn: 1st. Guy Guay.



D. Leishman making his finish

Class 2, Boys 17 to 21, plain plows, horse-drawn: 1st. Claude Guay; 2nd. A. McAndrew; 3rd. G. Tomalty.

Class 3, Men, 21 and over, plain plows, horse-drawn: 1st. H. LePage; 2nd. B. Charbonneau; 3rd. P. Guay.

Class 4, Men's High Cut Plow class: 1st. P. St. Jacques; 2nd. J. Kingsbury.

Class 5, Men's 2-furrow plows, horse-drawn: 1st. S. Smith; 2nd. R. Boyd; 3rd. B. Clarke.

Class 8, Men's Tractor Plows: 1st. D. Leishman; 2nd. A. Hammond; 3rd. L. Bain.

The prize for the best plow team went to J. Heatlie.

Judges for the match were R. Morrison, S. Hamilton and Prof. L. G. Heimpel.

Pomological Society Will Meet In February

The annual winter meeting of the Quebec Pomological Society will be held in Montreal on February 10, 11 and 12. Detailed programmes will be mailed out later.

During the three day meetings, there will be plenty of time for a general discussion of growers' problems, in addition to the time reserved for the technical papers that will be presented. Another feature will be the Question Period, when those with problems will have a chance to get an expert's answer to any questions he may want to ask. You are asked to mail to the Secretary, any time now, any question or questions you may want to have answered at the meeting, and a list of all the questions received will be distributed during the meeting. Each question will be numbered on the list, and anyone who wants to ask such and such a question will only have to mention the number, and the person best qualified to do so will answer it. It is expected that this novel system will save much valuable time, and make it possible for everyone in the audience to know what question has been asked. In a large meeting, when somebody gets up and asks a question of the chairman, you know how often people a few rows away can't hear what has been said. The last date for receiving questions to be included on the list is February 1st.

Quebec apples are practically all sold out. Fameuse sold on the average from 10 to 15 cents less this year, but McIntosh averaged 20 to 40 cents a bushel more. Other varieties sold at slightly more than the 1947 prices. The Quebec crop sold more quickly this year and demand was better and steadier. Growers asked more reasonable prices and quality and packing and grading showed an improvement.

The Quebec Sugar Refinery reports a total production this season of 7,800,000 pounds of sugar, extracted from 27,556 tons of sugar beets that were delivered during the autumn by Quebec farmers.

Average production of sugar beets per acre was a little more than 9 tons, and the roots yielded 283 pounds of sugar per ton.

Strippings

by Gordon W. Geddes

If potato support prices, as now announced, are an example of what may be expected in the way of support for farm prices when it becomes necessary to bolster them, there is very little hope from that source for continued agricultural prosperity. Yet the signs already point towards a falling-off of food prices while manufactured farm supplies are still going up. Farmers were badly caught when prices started to go up as it was a long time before they received any reasonable facsimile of the much discussed parity prices. As late arrivals at the inflationary feast they should hardly be expected to leave first. But this they will probably be asked to do. If they do not accept the invitation they will be chased away unless they can combine to offer effective resistance to such a proposal.

One of our old hog shippers disappointed us when the last lot was ready to go. However, a new one appeared on the scene the next day and we gave him a trial as the hogs were really 'ready for Freddy'. It turned out very well as the shrinkage was less than twenty-five per cent of the weight in the pen. However, we got a chance to see what could easily happen to a farmer who did not know what his pigs were worth. He was anxious to buy the hogs out right instead of taking them in for a fixed price. He offered \$138 for three but finally raised it to \$140. We asked him \$150 and he decided to take them in. The returns from them, after all charges were deducted, were \$151.93 which would have given him a little more even at the \$150. If we had taken him up at his offer he would have done very well indeed and we would have been poorer but not wiser as we should never have known the difference.

As might be expected, Prof. Crampton's talk to the Stanstead District Jersey Breeders proved most interesting. He really did not need to make it

so to hold his audience for few if any of them, once seated, could have walked out on him for a while after the supper they had just eaten. However if the supper had followed the talk instead of preceding it, none of them would have wanted to leave until he finished.

He was no stranger to the district as the supper was held at Hatley where

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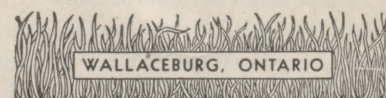
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he has played a part in numerous pasture experiments. His talk dealt with the next phase of the work, what goes

on in the laboratory to prove the exact results of the pasture experiments. It was certainly amazing to see the lengths to which they go to complete their research. For example who would think that examining a slice from a rat's tooth would show, under a microscope, how much vitamin C it had in its diet? In another case what might have been a tragedy was averted by trying out a shortening substitute on rats. It was proposed to use a part of the linseed oil for shortening material. Heat was used to extract the fraction so used. It appeared successful but when tried on rats, the effect was very bad. The raw linseed oil had not any bad results. This would substantiate an old belief that, while raw linseed oil could be used as a physic for animals, the boiled form was dangerous. After listening to him, it seemed as if the old saying 'Try it on the dog' might well be changed to 'Try it on the rats' for much useful information about human diets and hog rations has resulted from trials with rats. It seems that humans, hogs and rats have very similar digestive systems. Let us hope the similarity ends there.

In regard to hog feeding, the speaker mentioned the new idea that hogs could be on full feed while they were young without lowering the grade. At that age feed would go into growth instead of fat even if heavy feeds were used. But as the hog got older the tendency was to put more into fat and less into growth. So using feeds with more fibre to fill up the pigs but provide less nutrients at the later stages of growth will produce more grade A bacon. Barley has more hull than wheat or corn so produces more lean meat while oats will give more than barley. Or the corn or wheat could be diluted with alfalfa meal, bran or oats. This makes the hogs a few weeks later to market but better bacon. Of course proper combinations must be used so the ration will not be too high in fibre and make the growth too slow and expensive. Anyway it gave us a better opinion of our oat crop for we grow them easier than barley while they are more expensive to buy.

There were other interesting items which we may take up later but space is getting short and we really must comment on the wonderful fall. Here it is Dec. 2 and we could still be plowing if necessary. Indeed we finished on Nov. 30 as we bought more land late in the season and had no hope of completing the plowing on that, especially as Ivan was gone over a week. A great deal of moisture also came in a fairly moderate manner so that the water situation is much improved. Many said it was so late in the fall that freeze-up would come before water but it is hard to tell.

We rather miss the National Film Board showings which do not take place here any more. When the roads get worse we shall miss them more. If enough people missed them, it might not be necessary to do so.

Sees Future in Light Horses

Despite the increasing mechanization of farming operations, farmers still have a stake in the survival of the light horse industry. A good utility horse is needed on the farm or ranch every day, and the stock-horse, which must be bred for disposition and endurance, is a specialist among all utility horses.

No less important to the physical welfare and contentment of humans in town and country is the pleasure horse, whether it be Thoroughbred, American Saddlebred, Palomino, Arab, or just a good horse, says H. F. Peters, Dominion Range Experimental Station, Manyberries, Alta.

The Arab, native of the desert and progenitor of most of our other light horse breeds, has performed admirably in endurance tests and is used as a stock-horse, parade horse, and pleasure horse.

The American Quarter Horse, muscular, low-slung, and maneuverable, is rapidly gaining international favour as a stock-horse.

The Thoroughbred is the King of the Turf and has been selected for one main purpose — racing under flat

saddle. Thoroughbred stallions have been crossed on middleweight mares to produce some excellent hunters, and Thoroughbred on Arabian produces the Anglo-Arab, a horse of superb quality and good temperament.

The American Saddle Horse is very popular with show people, and, because of its performance in the three- and five-gaited classes, has become the aristocrat of the show-ring.

Breeders of the Palominos in Western Canada have improved the quality of the Golden Horse and have concentrated on the stock-horse type. In other parts, Palominos are also bred as parade and pleasure horses.

The Standardbred or American Trotter and Pacer, Morgan, Tennessee Walking Horse, and Appaloosa are other breeds which have their place in the light horse industry.

Regardless of breed preference, there are features which a desirable mount must have—depth of heart, soundness of limb, and a good disposition. And in this last, the rider must not be overlooked—for he can alter a horse's disposition for good or ill.

Sweet Smelling Barns

The lowly barn is no longer a place which city folk turn their nose up at. They may now be made to smell as sweet as the pine woods.

Modern science has given the farmer chemicals which will not only eliminate most of the unpleasant barn odors but will increase the value of barnyard manure as well, thus solving a problem which baffled rural research workers for centuries.

It is a well-established fact that a large part of the fertility value of manure is in the liquid portion. Treated with these newly-discovered chemicals, the manure loses its objectionable odor and the plant food value within it preserved. Exhaustive tests have shown that when these products are added the amount of ammonia lost through fermentation is substantially reduced. This gives a greater build-up of nitrogen available to the soil when the treated manure is spread on the field.



THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes
and to matters of interest to them*

The Clothes We Wear

by Majorie E. Hurley

From fig leaf to nylon, the provision of clothing down through the ages has occupied much of man's labour and ingenuity. For countless years we depended mainly upon "borrowed raiment" obtained from animals. Then we learned to grow our own garments, after someone discovered that certain plant fibres could be utilized to make thread and woven into cloth. Next, someone thought of colouring the cloth with juices of certain plants and herbs, or with "extract of shellfish". And so, one improvement followed another until modern times. But the most spectacular forward strides in the manufacturing of textiles are associated with the growth of the modern chemical industry.

Cotton: "Grandfather" of textiles is the cotton fibre most representative of the vegetable group. Not only is cotton widely used in our everyday garments, but it masquerades in the guise of other famous fabrics like batiste, calico, crepe, flannel, velvet, corduroy and satin. Chemical finishing processes and machines vary the outward appearance of the basic cotton fibre.

Cotton has a long history. Most people have a mental picture of a cotton field with its lovely white blossoms waving in the breeze. The cotton, however, is not white at all, but varies in colour from pale ivory to tan, depending on the variety. It consists of many small fibres attached to seeds contained in the capsule. The hairy fibres are converted into clean, fine yarns by many interesting operations. Scutching and carding machines straighten the fibres and comb out foreign material. Next comes spinning and then the individual threads are brought together to form two, three or four-ply yarns, which are woven into cloth. Canadian mills make many varieties of cloth from these yarns; fabrics as soft and loose as surgical bandages, or as firm and strong as tarpaulin.

Rayon: There are three main methods by which rayon is transformed into yarn from cellulose—the viscose, acetate, and cuprammonium processes. Though each method produces rayon with different characteristics, the viscose acetate method is the most widely used. After the main chemical transformation, the rayon yarn is ready to be woven or knitted. Then it is dyed or finished. At this point the fabric may be given a finish to render it crease-resistant, water-repellent or fire-proof, depending upon the use to which it will eventually be put. Some-

times it is treated with stabilizing agents, which minimize shrinkage or stretching. Rayon yarn known as filament rayon, is used to make hosiery and certain plain fabrics. Other fabrics and blends with wool and cotton are made from spun rayon.

Nylon: An extremely strong and elastic fibre, nylon, is built up entirely from chemicals. The complicated manufacture of nylon is derived from coal, air and water, as is generally known, but this is done through an intermediate product, benzene, which is a derivative of coal tar. Almost everyone knows that nylon absorbs very little moisture, therefore it dries very quickly. What most people do not know is that nylon is virtually non-inflammable—it melts at a high temperature but will not ignite. It is not attacked by mildew or moths. Its natural colour is white, yet it can be very successfully dyed. A nylon fabric is safe from shrinkage or stretching because it can be made to retain any desired shape or form permanently—simply by steam-heating. Nylon is appearing on the market is an increasing variety of shapes and guises, while new uses for this wonder-fibre are constantly being devised.

Wool: The original method of borrowing clothes from the beasts was to remove skin and all. With the advance of civilization, however, a new art sprang up—that of making clothes from fibres removed painlessly from the animal's back. Wool is one of the most important of the animal fibres. There are many species of fine wool. Namely:—Carpet yarns; Shetland wool; Scotch wool, used mainly in the manufacture of tweeds; English wool is long and lustrous; Spanish merino is fine and soft; but Australian wool tops them all. Botany is a term applied to fine wools.

Asbestos: Man's powerful ally today in fighting fire, weather and wear, has a fascinating story. Canada produces nearly 70% of the world's supply. When one handles a chunk of asbestos in its crude form, it is "as hard as iron". Though the fibrous surface dulls the edge of a sharp knife, fibres can easily be scraped up or "teased" with the fingernails into a soft, fluffy, silk-like mass and twisted into threads. These threads of asbestos can be woven into a variety of fireproof garments.

Canadian Industries lends itself to such an extensive study that I have only endeavoured to give the reader a general picture of the activities that put mankind in modern dress.

County Happenings

Gaspe County members joined in sending a purse of money and a pair of "Trapper Point" blankets to Mrs. J. Frank (Miss Walker).

The Publicity Convenor for Pontiac, Miss Edey, reports with regret the passing of the editor of their local newspaper Mr. Wm. G. Gowan of the Shawville Equity, feeling it a loss to publicity work in that county. "I shall always remember" she adds, "the many pleasant associations with him as editor and friend in Publicity work."

Sherbrooke Institute members are keeping up their friendly contacts with groups "across the Border" when delegates from all branches attended the annual meeting of the Orleans County Home Demonstration Clubs held at Derby, Vt. For their own meeting, the semi-annual, the Cherry Branch entertained the county with a large attendance.

Papineau enjoyed a visit from Mrs. G. E. LeBaron, 1st vice president of the Quebec Women's Institutes,

at their semi-annual. "Needless to say," states the report "this was both interesting and helpful." Miss Pritchard and Miss Hopkins, from the nearby county of Pontiac, were also welcome guests at that time. The programme featured Education which was highlighted by an address on that topic by the principal of the new High School, Mr. Moore.

Compton County members started plans for the next year's fair display at their semi-annual. Each branch is to make an outfit for a child up to 12 years of age with each member contributing an article. These will be sent overseas after the exhibit. Another splendid project is the compiling of a history of Compton County. All branches are assisting in procuring material for this purpose and the completed book is also to be on display at the fair, "next year".

From Brome County comes word their county president Mrs. Blampin has been ill and in the hospital. Members will join with those in her own county in wishing her a complete recovery.

The Month With the W.I.

Follow Miss Guild if you can! Demonstrations follow each other thick and fast in the reports from branches in our more northerly counties, from Pontiac to Quebec, revealing she has certainly been on the move. Sandwich making seems to be one of the most popular with Stain Removal and Hair-do and Good Grooming a close second.

Argenteuil: Arundel voted \$15 to the village skating rink and is furnishing hot soup to Grade I pupils. Cocoa is also supplied to all students during the lunch period. Brownsburg heard a talk on Western Canada and the United States by Mr. Staniforth, principal of the local school. A trip to England was also described by Mrs. Smillie, who has recently returned from there, and an account of the Handicraft Exhibit in Quebec City given by another member, Mrs. Stevens. Tea and sweet biscuits were sent two English Institutes. Frontier members served lunch at the county ploughing match. \$10 for the soup fund at Lachute High School, and a community party are other activities reported. Jerusalem-Bethany also reports many donations including \$5 to the Salvation Army and \$10 to the Lachute School Soup Fund. Wool to help make an afghan was sent, a patient at Ste. Agathe. Lachute purchased blankets for the Youth Hostel and is assisting with soup at the High School. The teachers' camp at Lake Oolawan was described by Mrs. Dan McCabe, helping teacher for the schools of the county. This was followed by a quiz. Lakefield sent \$5 to the Service Fund and \$3 to the County Scholarships. Mille Isles also gave a donation to the Scholarship Fund and, led by the convenor of Education, discussed the teaching of French in our schools. Morin Heights voted \$10

towards game equipment for their school and heard a talk on Education by their principal, Mr. Haughton. Dr. Turcotte of the County Health Unit also discussed First Aid. Pioneer sponsored a supper and sale that netted the treasury \$85. Mr. Staniforth was a guest speaker here and described his trip across Canada. Upper Lachute and East End entertained the county president, Mrs. Leggett, who gave a general talk on Institute work here and in her birthplace Kent County, England. A paper on Miss Harra Smith's trip to the coast and an address by the convenor of Education were other items of the programme.

Brome: Abercorn reports 25 years of service for "Home and Country" although their numbers have decreased as many members have moved away. At their meeting money was voted for soup, cocoa and sugar for hot lunches in the school, also for prizes in two schools. Austin is steadily working on improvements for their new hall. \$50 was given towards a projector to be used there and \$25 has been received to assist in the purchase of a stove. A card party is being held and plans made for Red Cross work. Sutton gave \$5 to the Local Home and School Association to be used for prizes.

Bonaventure: New Richmond netted \$30 from a sale of woolen articles and presented prizes to the schools in Cascapedia. New Carlisle served lunch at a Legion dance and took part in their Remembrance Day ceremony. School prizes were also given here. Port Daniel had an acknowledgment from B.C. for towels sent the flood victims. Shigawake observed United Nations Day by a special service in the church. Education was the topic discussed at their meeting with the convenor, Mrs.

MacCartney, in charge. \$5 to the Salvation Army is also reported.

Chat-Huntingdon: Aubrey-Riverfield gave donations to their school to be used for prizes and for the hot lunch fund. A paper on the life of Mrs. Strum and a quiz formed the programme. Dundee sponsored a jam and jelly shower for their county hospital and is joining with other branches of the county in sending a box valued at \$20 to Britain. Mrs. G. Gleason, R.N. gave a talk on "Protecting Small Children from Hazards", and the "Practical Idea" prize winner this month was Mrs. H. Cameron. Franklin Centre held a weiner roast and social evening to raise funds for their "Parcels". An address on "Keeping our Homes Up-to-date" was given at the meeting and a quiz on jumbled men's names. Howick is another branch reporting a jam and jelly shower for their hospital. The guest speaker was Nurse Rankin of Huntingdon, who told of her various experiences in connection with her work for UNRRA. Orms-town entertained the teaching staff of the High School at their last meeting when the Rev. A. E. Hutchinson was the guest speaker on "Citizenship". The convenor of Education, Mrs. K. Pearse, acted as chairman. Hemmingford is noted for its rollcalls—"Bring something from a Foreign Country" made a valuable addition to the programme. Two talks were also featured. "The Constitution" by Mr. Bouchard, N.P. and the other by their own Mrs. Petch.

Compton: Bury operated a canteen at an officers dance and donated \$11 towards prizes in the school. Several papers and a sing-song were enjoyed at the meeting. Plans are being made for a short course in Weaving or Pottery. Brookbury lists many donations; \$11 for school prizes, \$2 the Salvation Army, \$5 gift to a friend and \$10 to two needy families. This was the last meeting until next spring as the branch finds it difficult to get together during the winter months.

Canterbury is joining Scotstown branch for Miss Guild's demonstration. East Angus sent a layette overseas, the one exhibited by this branch at their local fair last fall (as a county project each branch made one for display at that time). A paper drive was sponsored and prizes given in the school. East Clifton had a most interesting programme when each member brought in family heirlooms and gave their history. Sawyerville gave their layette to the Junior Red Cross. A practical talk on storing fruits and vegetables and a successful "five-day" Thrift Shop are also reported. Scotstown also give their layette to the Jr. Red Cross to be sent overseas. Soap was brought in to be sent an English W.I. and a scrapbook has been compiled and sent to a Scottish Institute. For their own community work towels for the school kitchen, hot lunches for needy school children and a sale of home-made articles and food to assist the Library Fund are all mentioned. A petition has been sent

to Ottawa asking that an English judge be appointed in Sherbrooke.

Gaspe: L'Anse aux Cousins had a entertaining reading entitled "The Visit of an English W.I. member to Ontario". Sandy Beach included a hand-knit cardigan in their overseas parcel. Wakeham's "Hard-times Ball" augmented their general fund by \$140. A contest on "Flowers and Foods of other Lands" furnished relaxation at their meeting. York voted \$5 to the Boy Scouts and gave gifts to two English war brides who were returning home for a visit.

Gatineau: Aylmer East, a helpful rollcall is reported here, "Ways of Getting New Members". Breckenridge held a cookie contest with prizes and also gave a "tea" prize. Eardley held a sandwich-making contest, a musical quiz, with prizes, and heard a paper on "Flood of Dutch Immigration". Red Cross work was completed and arrangements made for membership in the Blue Cross. Rupert planted 4 doz. tulip bulbs in their cemetery. The report adds, "This branch has been responsible for a well-kept, beautiful 'God's Acre' for many years. \$25.96 was cleared at the dinner served at the semi-annual. Wakefield heard a paper on "The legal Status of Married Women in Quebec" ("They haven't any" adds the convenor), voted \$5 towards a C.G.I.T. camp and packed a large carton of clothing to Save the Children. Wright-Citizenship was the topic of the programme with a talk by the convenor of that department and a rollcall "Citizen of our Province who has Contributed Something of Importance to our Country".

Jacques Cartier: Ste. Anne's branch members are working hard to make their bazaar a success and already have a large collection of fine articles. Mr. W. A. Maw of Macdonald College gave a talk and demonstration on preparing and cooking chicken and a special holiday box was packed for their adopted family in Scotland.

Montcalm: Rawdon had a successful card party and packed a large holiday box for overseas.

Megantic: Inverness also packed a special gift box for overseas. A talk on "Bees" was given by Mrs. Graham, who illustrated her remarks with honeycomb from her own hives. Plans are being made for a short course in weaving and felt-making in the early spring.

Missisquoi: Cowansville is making plans for a short course this winter. Their branch gives an annual scholarship in their school, the "Heroes Memorial". Dunham presented a membership pin to one of their members who is leaving for England. At St. Armand a handicraft quiz proved an interesting item of their programme. A card party was held to raise funds. Stanbridge East sponsored a most successful Hobby Show. A new member has been enrolled and a worthwhile rollcall is also reported "Name a Figure of International Fame."

Papineau: Lochaber, favorite authors and one of their books formed the rollcall and a bride was presented with



Members of Dennison's Mills W.I. taken by their hall. The members celebrated their 25th anniversary on day picture was taken. Elderly lady in centre gave land that their W.I. Hall is built on.

an address and gift. The members taking the St. John's Ambulance Course all passed successfully and received their certificates.

Pontiac: Bristol Busy Bees heard a talk on the Central School Board by Mr. S. Wyman McKechnie. Clarendon gave two quilts to a neighbour and woollen blankets and a sum of money to a member, all victims of fire. Vegetables were also donated the Community Hospital. Rev. Capt. L. Mack gave an address on the theme of "Home and Country". Elmside gave a woollen quilt to a Polish family, new comers to the community. Father and Son agreements were discussed and the care of houseplants. The grandmothers were guests at this meeting. Shawville sponsored a very successful Variety Concert. Stark's Corners presented two loafer chairs to the Community Hospital and made a layette for one of their members. Miss Corrigan, R.N. of the County Health Unit, explained the scope of its work. Quyon donated \$25 to each of three village schools for recreational purposes. The teachers were guests at the meeting and gave short talks. A "Match Box" contest caused much merriment. Wyman "The History of the International Peace Garden" was presented by Miss A. Pritchard and an article on Bee Keeping. Extracts were also read from the Federated News.

Quebec: Valcartier members are serving hot lunches to the school children and equipment for this purpose has been purchased. \$30 was voted for holiday treats for the children when the sum of \$102.40 was realized from a dance. We are very glad to see this item on their report "steps are being taken to purchase a hall". The number of branches engaging in this worthwhile community project is steadily growing.

Richmond: Cleveland had a paper on Education by the convenor, Mrs. Ross. A "Group Tea" and a card party were other activities. Dennison's Mills sent two gift boxes overseas. Gore gave a gift to one of their members on her silver wedding and donations to victims of two fires. Cards were sold to raise money and \$58.60 netted at a card party. Dr. Percival's book "Across the

Years" was reviewed by Miss Dresser. Shipton presented a member with a suitable gift.

Rouville: Abbotsford presented a life-membership to Miss F. B. Jackman in recognition of her long service to the W.I. Miss Jackman has been Publicity Convenor since their branch was organized in October, 1929.

Shefford: Granby Hill received the splendid sum of \$148.89 from a sale of food and fancy articles. Gifts were brought in for a special holiday box overseas and \$5 sent the Salvation Army. South Roxton sent a gift to the county president, Mrs. Blampin who has been ill. Mrs. Blampin is a member of this branch. Health bulletins were distributed by the convenor and the "surprise package" won by Mrs. N. Smith. Warden voted \$5 to Blind Campaign and sent a W.I. scrapbook to an old friend in the Wales Home. At the close of the meeting a "Wear ever" demonstration was given.

Sherbrooke: Ascot donated prizes in the local school and gave \$5 to the St. John Ambulance Association. Four members of this branch received first aid certificates in the class held there recently. Belvidere held a rummage sale. A war bride, recently returned from England, told of the appreciation felt by British housewives for the food parcels. Brompton gave donations to the school, \$10 for treats for the children and \$4 towards the hot lunch fund. Cherry River enrolled a new member and held a sale of food and handicrafts. Lennoxville had an apron contest and sale. Milby sent vegetables for the Salvation Army. "A Report Card for Parents" was the novel theme of their programme.

Stanstead: Fitch Bay packed two 20 lb. food parcels for England, serving a tea to raise money for postage. North Hatley entertained the county convenor of Education, Miss C. I. McKenzie, who spoke on additions to the school curriculum. An exhibition of art by children 3½ to 10 years of age was another feature of this meeting. Tomifobia packed a box of clothing for overseas and a box of food sent a family in Scotland in addition to the usual "Parcel" to England. Way's Mills sent fruit cakes to their English friends in Cross-in-Hand W.I. and served lunch at a dance. The U.N. was the topic discussed at their meeting.

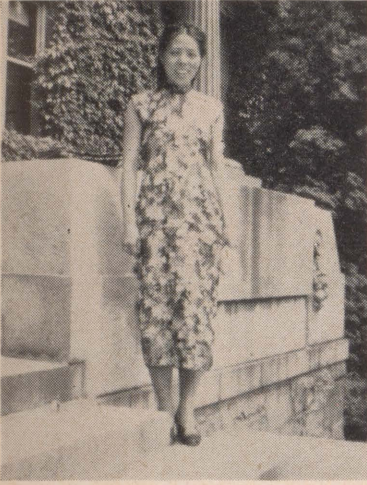


Members of Cleveland W.I.



THE COLLEGE PAGE

A First-hand Report from China



Students at Macdonald College come from far-away places, and we print below extracts from a letter from Miss Shu Feng Che'h, a Chinese girl who graduated last year from our course in Handicrafts. Miss Che'h, after completing her course here, went to Honan and taught in the girls' department of the Yu Chung Middle School

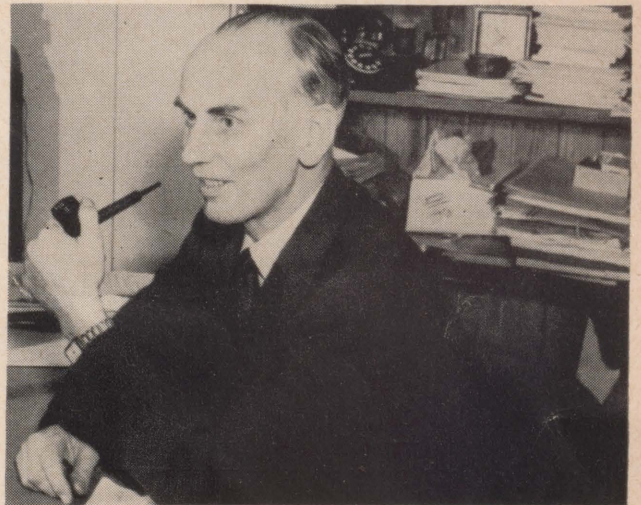
just outside Kaifeng. She writes of events that took place in June, 1948.

"We had a relatively peaceful time for more than two months and we paid little attention to any trifling upsets. Both the Church and the school were having a prosperous time. We planned to have graduation exercises on June 21st, but on the 16th, as we were rehearsing the plays, news came that the situation was tense. By twelve o'clock that night there was faint firing; as it sounded nearer all the time we had to wake the students and lead them down to the basement. By five in the morning it sounded so close that we believed the fighting was near the station, but by nine it had more or less stopped and we were advised to take the students to the city, which we did with some difficulty.

"Fighting was severe that night and we all had to sit in the basement. The suburb was taken on the 18th. Our buildings were targets for bombs and cannon shells and they suffered terribly, especially the girls' school. All the glass was broken, windows and doors stripped out, a big pine tree cut in two and the t'ung (catalpa) tree was uprooted. On the 19th the Cathedral was taken for one whole week; day and night there was severe street fighting. More than 200 people—ten children under five years of age—crowded into the basement about thirty feet square. The windows had to be closed and covered with heavy quilts to stop flying bullets. We ate little and only had unboiled water to drink.

On the 22nd the whole city was taken. There was no more fighting, but there was incessant bombing, during which there was general looting. The boys' school lost all its wheat; teachers' salaries and the Honan International Relief Committee stuff. The girls' school was looted clean, even to the beds, students' desks and chairs. We teachers and students lost everything we owned except the little we were able to take to the city.

"This civil war is many-times worse than the Japanese war. Kaifeng then did not suffer nearly so much. It is a heart-breaking situation, and one's little efforts seem so hopeless. I believe the only way to save China is through prayer. Please do pray for us, pray that we be forgiven, pray that we be spared. In Kaifeng now more than 20,000 people are homeless. They must be helped."



Dr. T. W. M. Cameron, Director of the Institute of Parasitology at Macdonald College, is the type of man who comes to mind when one hears the remark "If you want to get a job done best, give it to the busiest man you know." Already a member of innumerable boards and committees, he has recently been elected President of the American Society of Parasitology, and Vice-chairman of the Biology Section of the Royal Society of Canada.

A NEW ERA IN QUEBEC

Two years ago the provincial Government of Quebec established an act to promote rural electrification by means of electricity cooperatives.

By January 1949, 110 electricity cooperatives had been established throughout the Province.

Twenty-seven of these are actually operating on a large scale. They have completed 2,111 miles of electric lines in rural areas, and have more than 300 miles under construction.

In 1945 only one out of four Quebec rural customers (farms or summer residences) had electricity on his premises. At the end of 1948, with the combined action of electric power companies and the Rural Electrification Bureau, 54,987 new rural customers will benefit from a proper electric service.

The Rural Electrification Act has certainly been of great help to the farm people of this Province.



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BUREAU
QUEBEC

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